

The Morning Astorian

ESTABLISHED 1873

PUBLISHED BY

ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

J. H. CARTER, GENERAL MANAGER.

RATES.

By mail, per year \$6 00
 By mail, per month 50
 By carriers, per month 60

THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

By mail, per year, in advance \$1 00



BUSINESS FAILURES.

On the surface the report of commercial insolvencies for the six months ended on June 30 is distinctly unfavorable. The liabilities involved amount to \$79,500,000 as against \$66,800,000 for the corresponding period of 1903 and the number of failures amounts to 6,214, as against 5,628 for the first half of last year, says the New York Commercial.

A slight analysis of these figures, however, serves to indicate that general business conditions remain sound. The bulk of the commercial insolvencies for the last six months consists of manufacturing and mercantile suspensions, the liabilities of which amounted to \$61,700,000. This, however, was only \$5,000,000 in excess of the liabilities of similar concerns during the first half of 1903, before the present lull in business activity fairly began to be manifest. The largest share of the increase in the liabilities of insolvents for the last half year was due to commercial failures other than those classed under the head of manufacturing and trading failures. The liabilities thus involved aggregated nearly \$8,000,000 more than those of similar failures for the corresponding period of last year.

An encouraging feature of the report of commercial suspensions for the last six months is that by far the heaviest failures measured by the liabilities involved, occurred during the first three months, thus indicating that the country has probably witnessed the worst of these reverses, at least for the present. Thus, the liabilities of the suspended concerns aggregated \$18,200,000 in January, \$15,800,000 in February and \$13,800,000 in March, or more than 70 per cent of the total for the entire half year. For May these liabilities had dwindled to \$9,800,000 and for June to \$8,500,000.

It is true that banking failures, as distinguished from strictly commercial failures, have been numerous and severe in the last six months. In number they were 59, involving liabilities to the amount of \$17,000,000, as contrasted with 44 suspensions involving liabilities amounting to \$6,500,000, for the first half of 1903. These failures, however, have been due largely, if not chiefly, to speculation, and reflect business conditions in only a small degree, if indeed they reflect such conditions in any degree whatever. Such failures are frequent in the most prosperous of times.

The business outlook, accordingly, is for smoother sailing in the immediate future. Most of the great crops promise to be abundant, industrial corporations and business concerns in general have adopted a policy of conservatism, carefully eschewing anything savoring of taking chances, and working people show less of a disposition to plunge into disputes with employers. In these circumstances there is reason to believe that business will not long remain in the doldrums.

MR. BRYAN'S DECLARATION.

The announcement of William J. Bryan that he will support the nominees of the St. Louis convention is peculiarly interesting, in view of the assertion of Judge Parker that he supported Mr. Bryan not because of, but in spite of, the silver plank in the Chicago and Kansas City platforms. Mr. Bryan now announces that he will support Judge Parker not because of, but in spite of, his Wall street environments.

If there is any such thing as political coals of fire, Mr. Bryan is certainly heaping them upon the heads of Mr. Cleveland and the other gentlemen who brought about the defeat of the democratic candidate in 1896 and 1900. When Mr. Bryan was nominated Mr. Cleveland did not for a moment stop to consider the consequences of his betrayal upon the future of the party that had twice elevated him to the presidency. Without regard for what had transpired, he split his party squarely in twain, and ever since has gloried in his course.

Suppose Mr. Bryan were to follow the example set by his illustrious opponent, the gentleman who resides at Princeton—where would the democracy be? Whatever else may be said of Mr. Bryan—however much his principles may have been subject to criticism—he has at all times been sincere,

and he has been backed by the vast majority of the democratic voters of the nation. Today, were he to declare against Parker and Davis, his simple declaration would deprive the democratic candidates of a million or two of votes.

But, as all party men should, he has abided by the will of the majority. No politician is greater than the party of which he is a member. Its decision should be final with him. The voter is differently situated, and may with reason bolt whenever he finds the party wandering from his ideas of right or wrong. In striking contrast with the action of Mr. Cleveland and other gold democrats is the action of the famous Nebraskan, and the disinterested element will applaud the course of the latter.

Mr. Bryan's statement is interesting for other reasons. He believes that Judge Parker will be little better from the democratic viewpoint than President Roosevelt. Democrats demand something which the president will not promise them. The democrats expect of Judge Parker those things for which they can entertain little hope. The situation makes the election of Mr. Roosevelt all the more easy and offers not the least hope to conservative democrats of the election of the St. Louis nominees.

CRUELTY IN WAR.

Japanese charges made against Russians of cruelty and mutilation on the field of battle and Russian charges against the Japanese to the same effect are an unpleasant but not unexpected feature of the war in the far east, says the New York Tribune. Upon the face of the case, they might be true on both sides. The Russian fondness for the knout and the gruesome memories of Kishineff might incline men to believe Russian soldiers capable of any deeds of cruelty, while the ancient practice of harakiri, by no means obsolete in Japan, and tales of alleged Japanese reprisals against Chinese in the war of 10 years ago might give color to Russian charges against the Japanese. Then there is always to be reckoned with the trace of the tiger spirit, which is latent, but potential, to so large a degree in the human race, and which may break loose at the taste of blood upon almost any provocation.

Such stories of such deeds are common in most wars. They are generally unfounded, or at least much exaggerated. Sometimes they may be made in entire good faith, though quite falsely. Wounds inflicted by shot and shell in battle often assume strange forms and simulate wanton and cruel mutilation. Unhappily, too, no army is entirely free from camp followers of ghoulish proclivities, who are as hateful to the side they are with as to the other, and for whose vile doings it would be unjust to condemn the soldiers. But principally it is to be observed that these charges are in nearly all cases made not by soldiers, but by non-combatant stay-at-homes, always "more royal than the king." It is not among the men who do the actual fighting with swords and guns, but among those who fight with tongue and pen at home, that the most virulent hatreds are engendered.

In the present case it is to be observed that the charges are not officially made. On the contrary, it is explained that they are non-official and that no official notice is to be taken of them. That, we may assume, means that they are not officially believed; and that fact alone should discredit them before the world. Moreover, there is much official as well as non-official testimony to the humanity and kindness displayed on both sides. We have seen actual photographs of Japanese soldiers and their wounded Russian captives fraternizing in the most marked manner. There is little question that each side in the unhappy struggle now feels increased respect for the other and has an increased sense of recognition of the other's good qualities. That either side is guilty of wanton cruelty to the living or of mutilation of the slain the world will not yet believe.

Hitherto Iceland has enjoyed the distinction of being the only country without a railroad, but it is now to have a short one, for the purpose of working some sulphur mines at Theistaryker, about 17 miles from Huavik, the nearest harbor. The country thus moults the tallest feather of its pride, and will have to get used to the squeal of the locomotive whistle, as other states have done, one after another, leaving Iceland to the last, but, after all, as the event shows, with no enduring immunity.

Public sentiment in favor of more severe regulations governing the sales of poisons by chemists is making headway rapidly. Few men or women who have resolved to kill themselves find much difficulty in buying anywhere the necessary drugs. This is especially true of the purchase of carbolic acid, which can be obtained in deadly quantities from pharmacists well nigh all over the town in nearly every hour of the day or night.

Another glorious advance has been made by British arms in Tibet and hundreds more of inoffensive people have fallen before the march of greed and aggression. The British mission to the unfortunate country has become a "war." The next step will be the justification and glorification of British soldiers by British statesmen and then the incident will be considered closed.

PIMPLES

"I tried all kinds of blood remedies which failed to do me any good but I have found the right thing at last. My face was full of pimples and black heads. After taking Cascarets they all left. I am continuing the use of them and recommending them to my friends. I feel fine when I rise in the morning. Hope to have a chance to recommend Cascarets."

Fred C. Witten, 16 Elm St., Newark, N.J.



Pleasant, Palatable, Potent, Taste Good, Do Good, Never Sicken, Weaken or Grip, No. 10, No. 20, No. 30, Sold in bulk. The genuine tablet stamped C.C.A. Guaranteed to cure or your money back.
 Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago or N.Y. 595
ANNUAL SALE, TEN MILLION BOXES

FORESTS ARE THREATENED.

Rain Alone Will Prevent Disastrous Forest Fires Near Seattle.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer: It is the prediction of Fire Warden Rief that unless rain falls within the next few days the whole Puget sound region is likely to be enveloped in a haze of smoke as a result of forest fires, several of which have broken out within the past 48 hours and are now threatening to assume alarming proportions. The excessively dry, hot weather of the past two weeks has dried up all the moisture contained in the undergrowth and once under headway the fire travels from one large body of timber to another with great rapidity. Warden Rief has deputy wardens scattered throughout the whole county combatting the incipient fires which have started within the past few days, but unless rain falls, in his opinion, it will be almost miraculous if the flames do not get beyond the control of those engaged in fighting them. A forest fire has been reported at Cherry valley, on the land of the Cherry Valley Lumber Company, and is reported to have already done great damage to timber and logs in the tract in which it broke out.

A fire at Maywood has burned over about 500 acres. The flames started beside the railroad track, and Warden Rief last night stated that unless they are checked within the next 24 hours great damage will be done to standing timber. North of Green lake, in section 36, the timber is on fire. This section is covered with shingle bolts and cord wood. This fire started Saturday evening and burned all day Sunday. Rief last night went out to take personal charge of the fight to stop the flames from spreading and to learn, if possible, the origin of the fire.

Warden Rief was at Lester on Sunday, investigating a case reported to him at that point. He gathered evidence to show that the law had been violated by persons in the vicinity, and arrests will be made today or tomorrow. The warden has appointed three additional deputies in that part of the county.

"The Italians working on the railroad in that vicinity are the principal violators of the law," said Warden Rief. "They hunt in and out of season, and frequently build camp fires in the woods. Since the accident last week, in which a boy was mistaken for a deer and shot, they are lying low."

Business End of Law.

There are fully 2,000,000 civil suits of law brought in this country every year. If the plaintiffs were different in every case, one in eight of the voting population could be said to be a litigant. As it is, the actual number of different litigants is not in excess of 800,000—400,000 plaintiffs and 400,000 defendants—which is 1 per cent of the total population of the country, now about 80,000,000. The number of law suits brought in a year in France is 800,000. In Italy—Italians are much inclined to litigation—it is 1,400,000, and in Germany it is 3,000,000, a very much larger number, both actually and relatively, than the number in the United States. Civil actions of all kinds begun last year in Great Britain and Ireland numbered about 1,500,000, or one for nearly every tenth male or female adult in the United Kingdom. In 1902 there was an increase of nearly 62,000 over the previous year, and 472,041 actions were heard out of 1,410,484 that were begun. Of the number of appeal cases heard, one in every three was successful, against one in four or five, years ago. The total cost of British litigation in 1903 was placed at \$7,509,875. The best measure of litigation is usually the number of laws or statutes, and not, contrary to general belief, the number of lawyers. In this country it is found generally to be the case that the largest amount of litigation does not originate among Americans, but among newcomers here, who appeal to the courts for the adjudication of matters of trifling account. In no other country in the world are there so many damage suits brought as there are in the United States.

Clothes For Active Men

The harder you are on your clothes the more reason for being sure they're Hart, Schaffner & Marx clothes.

These clothes are not only made to look well; but they're made for wear. And as long as they wear they look well. You will find them the most economical clothes you ever had both for the service they'll give you and for the satisfaction in appearances you will get.



Copyright 1904 by Hart Schaffner & Marx

P. A. STOKES, One Price To Everybody

Scow Bay Iron & Brass Works

Manufacturers of

Iron, Steel, Brass and Bronze Castings.
 General Foundrymen and Patternmakers.
 Absolutely firstclass work. Prices lowest.

Phone 2451.

Corner Eighteenth and Franklin.

Staple and Fancy Groceries

FLOUR, FEED, PROVISIONS, TOBACCO AND CIGARS.

Supplies of All Kinds at Lowest Prices for Fishermen, Farmers and Loggers.

Branch Uniontown, - - Phones, 711, - - Uniontown, 713

A. V. ALLEN,

Tenth and Commercial Streets.

ASTORIA, OREGON.

The TROY Laundry

Is the only White Labor Laundry in the City. Does the Best of Work at very reasonable Prices, and is in every way worthy of your patronage. Cor. 10th and DUANE STS. Phone 1991

PRAEL & COOK TRANSFER CO.

Telephone 221.

Drying and Expressing

All goods shipped to our care will receive special attention.

709-715 Commercial Street.

Reliance Electrical Works

H. W. CYLUR, Manager

We are thoroughly prepared for making estimates and executing orders for all kinds of electrical installing and repairing. Supplies in stock. We sell the Celebrated SHELBY LAMP.

Call up Phone 1161.

428 BOND STREET

FRESH AND CURED MEATS

Wholesale and Retail

Ships, Logging Camps and Mills supplied on short notice.

LIVE STOCK BOUGHT AND SOLD

WASHINGTON MARKET - CHRISTENSON & CO.

ANDREW ASP, BLACKSMITH.

Having installed a Rubber Tiring Machine of the latest pattern I am prepared to do all kinds of work in that line at reasonable prices. Telephone 291.

CORNER TWELFTH AND DUANE STREETS.